MARY MARIE

By Eleanor H. Porter

Illustrations by R. H. Livingstone

FATHER AND MOTHER

STNOPSIS -- in a preface Mary Marie explains her apparent ' personality" and just why she is a cross-current and a contradiction;" the also tells her reasons for writing the dary—later to be a novel. The diary is commenced at Ander-conville. More begins with Nurse sonville. Mary begins with Nurse Sarah's account of her (Mary's) birth, which seemingly interested her father, who is a famous astronomer, less than a new star which was discovered the same night. Her name is a compromise, her father insisting on Abigail Jane. The child quickly learned that her home was in some way different from those of her small friends, and was puzzled thereat. Nurse Sarah tells her of her mother's arrival at Andersonville as a bride and how astonished they all were at the sight of the dainty eighteen-year-old girl whom the sedate pro-fessor had chosen for a wife.

CHAPTER II-Continued.

"An your ma-poor little thing! I couldn't think of anything but a doll that was thrown in the corner because somebody'd got tired of her. She was lopesome, an no mistake. Anybody'd be sorry for her, to see her mopin' round the house, nothin' to do. Oh, she read, an' sewed with them brightcolored silks an' worsteds; but 'course there wasn't no real work for her to do. There was good help in the kitchen, an' I took what care of your grandma was needed; an' she always gave her orders through me, so I practically run the house, an' there wasn't anything there for her to do.

"An' so your ma just had to mope it out alone. Oh, I don't mean your pa was unkind. He was always nice an' polite, when he was in the house. an' I'm sure he meant to treat her all right. He said yes, yes, to be sure, of course she was lonesome, an' he Twas too bad he was was sorry. so busy. An' he kissed her an' patted her. But he niwnys began right away to talk of the comet; an' ten to one he didn't disappear into the observatory within the next five minutes. Then your ma would look so grieved an' sorry an' go off an' cry, an' maybe not come down to dinner, at all,

"Well then, one day things got so bad your grandma took a hand. She was up an' around the house, though she kept mostly to her own rooms. But of course she saw how things was goin'. Besides, I told her-some. Twas no more than my duty, as 1 looked at it. She just worshiped your pa, an' naturally she'd want things right for him. So one day she told me to tell her son's wife to come to her in her room.

"An' I did, an' she came. Poor little thing! I couldn't help bein' sorry for her. She didn't know a thing of what was wanted of her, an' she was so glad an' happy to come. You see, she was lonesome, I suppose.

"'Me? Want me?-Mother Anderson? she cried. 'Oh, I'm so glad?' Then she made it worse by runnin' up the stairs an' bouncin' into the room like a rubber ball, an' cryin': 'Now, what shall I do, read to you, or sing to you, or shall we play games? I'd love to do any of them!' Just like that, she said it. I heard ber. Then I went out, of course, an' left them. But I heard 'most everything that was said, just the same, for I was right in the next room dustin,' and the door wasn't quite shut.

"First your grandmother said real polite-she was always polite-but in a cold little voice that made even me shiver in the other room, that she did not desire to be read to or sung to, and that she did not wish to play games. She had called her daughter in-law in to have a serious talk with her. Then she told her, still very polite, that she was noisy an' childish, an' undignified, an' that it was not only silly, but very wrong for her to expect to have her husband's entire attention; that he had his own work. an' it was a very important one. He was going to be president of the college some day, like his father before him; an' it was her place to help him in every way she could-belp him to be popular an' well-liked by all the college people an' students; an' he couldn't be that if she insisted all the time on keepin' him to herself, or lookin' sour an' cross if she couldn't have

"Of course that ain't all she said; but I remember this part particular on account of what happened afterward. You see-your ma-she felt awful bad. She cried a little, an' sighed a lot, an' said she'd try, she really would try to help her husband in every way she could; an' she wouldn't ask him another once, not once, to stay with her. An' she wouldn't look sour an' cross, either. She'd promise she wouldn't. An' she'd try, she'd try, oh, so bard, to be proper an' dignified.

"She got up then an' went out of the room so quiet an' still you wouldn't know she was movin'. But I heard ber up in her room cryin' half an hour later, when I stopped a minute at her door to see if she was there. An she was.

"But she wasn't cryin' by night. Not much she was! She'd washed ber face an' dressed herself up as pretty as could be, an' she never so much as looked as if she wanted her busband to stay with her, when he said right after supper that be guessed he'd go out to the observatory. twas that way right along after that. I know, 'cause I watched. You see, I knew what she'd said she'd do. Well, she dfil it.

"Then, pretty quick after that, she began to get acquainted in the town. Folks called, an' there was parties an' receptions where she met folks, an' they began to come here to the house, 'specially them students, an' two or three of them young, unmarried professors. An' she began to go out a lot with them-skatin' an' sleighridin' an' snowshoein'.

"Like it? Of course she liked it! Who wouldn't? Why, child, you never saw such a fuss as they made over your ma in them days. She was all the rage; an' of course she liked it. What woman wouldn't, that was gay an' lively an' young, an' had been so lonesome like your nin had? But some other folks didn't like it. An' your pa was one of them. This time 'twas him that made the trouble. I know, cause I heard what he said one day to her in the library.

"Yes, I guess I was in the next room that day, too-er-dustin', probably, Anyway, I heard him tell your ma good an' plain what he thought of her gallivantin' 'round from mornin' tili night with them young students an' profes-sors, an' havin' them here, too, such a lot, till the house was fairly overrun with them. He said he was shocked an' scandalized, an' didn't she have any regard for his honor an' decency, if she didn't for herself! An' oh, a whole lot more.

"Cry? No. your ma didn't cry this time. I met her in the hall right after they got through talkin', an' she was white as a sheet, an' her eyes was like two blazin' stars. So I know how she must have looked while she was in the library. An' I must say she give It



Yes, I Guess I Was in the Next Room That Day, Too-er-Dustin'."

to him good an' piain, straight from the shoulder. She told him she was shocked an' scandalized that he could talk to his wife like that; an' didn't he have any more regard for her honor an' decency than to accuse her of runrin' after any man living-much less a dozen of them! An' then she told him a lot of what his mother had said to her, an' she said she had been merely tryin' to carry out those instructions. She was tryin' to make her husband an' her husband's wife an' her husband's home popular with the college folks, so she could help him to be president, if he wanted to be. But he answered back, cold an' chilly, that he thanked her, of course, but he didn't care for any more of that kind of assistance; an' if she would give a little more time to ber home an' her housekeepin', as she ought to, he would be considerably better pleased. An' she said, very well, she would see that he had no further cause to complain. An' the next minute I met her in the hall, as I just said, her head

high and her eyes blazin'. "An's things did change then, a lot, I'll own. Right away she began to re fuse to go out with the students an' young professors, an' she sent down word she wasn't to home when they called. And pretty quick, of course, they stopped comin'.

"Housekeeph"? Attend to that? Well, y-yes, she did try to at first, s little; but of course your granding had always given the orders-through me, I mean; an' there really wasn't anything your ma could do. An' I told her so, plain. Her ways were new an' different an' queer, an' we liked ours better, anyway. So she didn't bother us much that way very long. Besides, she wasn't feelin' very well, anyway, an' for the next few months she stayed in her room a lot, an' we didn't see much of her. Then by an' by you came, an'-well, I guess that's all-too much, you little chatterbox I"

CHAPTER III

The Break is Made.

And that's the way Nurse Sarah finished her story, only she shrugged her shoulders again, and looked back, first one way, then another. As for her calling me "chatterbox"—she always calls me that when she's been doing all the talking.

As near as I can remember, I have told Nurse Sarah's story exactly as she told it to me, in her own words. But of course I know I didn't get it right all the time, and I know I've left out quite a lot. But, anyway, it's told a whole lot more than I could have told why they got married in the first place, and it brings my story right up to the point where I was born; and I've already told about naming me, and what a time they had over that.

Of course what's happened since, up to now, I don't know all about, for was only a child for the first few years. Now I'm almost a young lady, "standing with reluctant feet where the brook and river meet." (I read that last night. I think it's perfectly beautiful. So kind of sad and sweet. It makes me want to cry every time I think of it.) But even if I don't know all of what's happened since was born, I know a good deat, for I've seen quite a lot, and I've made Nurse tell me a lot more.

I know that ever since I can remember I've had to keep as still as a mouse the minute Father comes into the house; and I know that I never could imagine the kind of a mother that Nurse tells about, if it wasn't that sometimes when Father has gone off on a trip, Mother and I have romped all over the house, and had the most beautiful time. I know that Father says that Mother is always trying to make me a "Marie," and nothing else; and that Mother says she knows Father'll never be happy until he's made me into a stupid little "Mary," with never an atom of life of my own. And, do you know? It does seem sometimes, as if Mary and Marle were tighting inside of me, and I wonder which is going to beat. Funny, isn't

Father is president of the college now, and I don't know how many stars and comets and things he's discovered since the night the star and I were born together. But I know he's very famous, and that he's written up in the papers and magazines, and is in the big fat red "Who's Who" in the library, and has lots of noted men come to see him.

Nurse says that Grandma Anderson died very soon after I was born, but that it didn't make any particular difference in the housekeeping; for things went right on just as they had done, with her giving the orders as before; that she'd given them all alone anyway, mostly, the last year Grandma Anderson lived, and she knew just how Father liked things. She said Mother tried once or twice to take the reins herself, and once Nurse let her, just to see what would happen. But things got in an awful muddle right and said things,

It seems that for a long time they didn't want folks to know there was going to be a divorce. So before folks they tried to be just as usual. But Nurse Sarah said she knew there was going to be one long ago. The first I ever heard of it was Nurse telling Nora, the girl we had in the kitchen then; and the minute I got a chance I asked Nurse what it was-a divorce.

My, I can remember now how scared she looked, and how she clapped her hand over my mouth. She wouldn't tell me-not a word. And that's the first time I ever saw her give that quick little look over each shoulder. She's done it lots of times since.

As I said, she wouldn't tell me, se I had to ask some one else. I wasn't going to let it go by and not find out not when Nurse Sarah looked so scared, and when it was something my father and mother were going to have some day.

I didn't like to ask Mother, Some way, I had a feeling, from the way Nurse Sarah looked, that it was some thing Mother wasn't going to like. And thought if maybe she didn't know yet she was going to have it, that certainly I didn't want to be the one to tell her. So I didn't ask Mother what a divorce was.

"Oh, my baby, my baby-to think I have subjected you to

(TO BE CONTINUED)

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR MAY 28.

JEREMIAH SPEAKS BOLDLY FOR GOD.

LESSON TEXT,—Jer. 26. GOLDEN TEXT.—Amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord.—Jer. 26:11.

REFERENCE MATERIAL - II Sam 13:1-14; I Kings 21:17-24; Jer. 7:1-15; Amos PRIMARY TOPIC .- The Story of a Brave Prophet.
JUNIOR TOPIC. - A Brave Prophet's

Meaninge.
INTERMEDIATEAND SENIOR TOPIC. -Jeremiah Speaks Boldly for God. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC. -When and How Should Wrong Be Re-buked?

Jeremiah's Solemn Warning to Judah (vv. 1-7).

The Lord commanded him to stand in a conspicuous place in the temple and proclaim the judgment which was about to fall upon them because of their sins. The object was to provoke them to repentance (v. 8). If they would not repent, God would make the temple as Shiloh (v. 6). Just as Shiloh was once the dwelling piace of the Lord and now fallen into decay and abandoned, so will it be with the temple. Jeremiah was sent to speak the words the Lord had told him and not to diminish a word.

II. Jeremiah on Trial (vv. 8-11). 1. Cause of Arrest (v. 8). It was for faithfully speaking all that the Lord had commanded. The one who speaks boldly what God commands shall be opposed. The time-server and self-seeker will not stand for such a ministry.

2. The Charge (vv. 8, 9). It was a capital crime. They said, "Thou shalt surely die." His guilt according to surely die," their charge was twofold: (1) Pretending to speak for God; (2) Speaking against the temple and the city. According to their charge he was guilty of blasphemy and sacrilege.

The Princes Sit in Judgment 3. (vv. 10, 11). When the excitement reached the ears of the princes they came to judge of the merits of the Matters of state were not encase. tirely in the bands of the priests and elders, but were partly controlled by members of the royal family.

III. Jeremiah's Defense (vv. 12-15), 1. Reiterates His Divine Commission (v. 12). He had nothing to deny, but to repeat what he had said. He plainly told them that in opposing him they were opposing God, for he was God's messenger.

2. His Exhortation (v. 13). He urged them to amend their ways and obey God, and God would not bring upon them judgment. Their threats did not cause him to suppress or soften his message.

3, He Gave Himself Up (v. 14). He dld not resist the powers of government (Rom. 13:1). Knowing that he was sent of God he was content to trust God for deliverance. He did not fear what man could do unto him.

4. Warns of Fatal Consequence (v. 15). He frankly told them that God had sent him and if they killed him they would be guilty of defying God. Resistance to God's prophet would be resistance to God. Woe would not only fall upon them, but the nation and city would suffer.

IV. Jeremiah Saved (vv. 16-24). He was acquitted. God is able to raise up friends and advocates from the ranks of those who oppose us. All hearts are in God's hands.

1. Judgment of the Princes (v.16). They pronounced him not guilty, as he had spoken in the name of the Lord. Jeremiah's words convinced them that he was speaking the truth.

2. Speech of the Elders (vv. 17-23). As the princes probably represented the king, so the elders represented the people.

The elders plead for Jeremiah and

adduced several cases in illustration; (1) Micah (vv. 18, 19). Micah had prophesied against Jerusalem, but the king Hezekiah instead of putting him to death, repented and thus turned pending. (2) Urijah (vv. 20-28).

aside the punishment which was im-Urijah prophesied against the city and land and thus incurred the wrath of Jeholakim, who brought him back from Egypt whence he had fied and alew him.

was not thus thwarted. Killing God's prophets does not prevent God's judgment, but intensifies it. In the case of Hezekiah God's judgments were turned aside through beeding the words of the prophet, and in the case of Jeholakim judgment fell upon the nation because of refusal and maitreatment of the prophet.

Though all this was done, judgment

3. Rescued by Ahikam (v. 24). Ahikam must have been a man of influence such as to be able to interfere at such a time.

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